Name of the Station	*Tower Height*	*Foundation*	*Erection*
Suwasra	60 M	Completed	By March, 98
Garoth	80 M	By March, 98	By June, 98
Rampura	80 M	Completed	By March, 98
Sarwaniya Maharaj	40 M	By Jan., 98	By March, 98
Diken	40 M	By Jan., 98	By March, 98
Ratangarh	40 M	Completed	Completed
Jawad	40 M	Completed	Completed

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

818. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in West Bengal during Ninth Five Year Plan and the current financial year 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the number of old telephone exchanges in the State;

(d) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion and modernisation of telephone exchange in the State during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(f) whether the Government have provided or propose to provide telephone facility in all the Panchayats of West Bengal;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There were twelve old type exchanges (Electro Mechanical) as on 31.3. 97. Out of these five have already been replaced by electronic exchanges upto now.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) It is proposed to provide telephone connections to all Gram Panchayats as per National Telecom. Policy.

(g) and (h) Total no. of Gram Panchayats provided with telephone connections in West Bengal is 3535 out of 3793. The remaining 257 Gram Panchayats are planned to be provided with telephone facilities during Ninth Five Year Plan.

Telecommunication Projects Collaboration with British Teleco

819. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some telecommunication projects are proposed to be set up in the country in collaboration with Bitish Telecom (BT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNCATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Separate Postal Accounts Office

820. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate postal accounts office for the North East Region was created after bifurcating the combined accounts at Calcutta;

(b) if so, the present status of the said office alongwith its location in the NER;

(c) if not, the reason for not shifting of the said office; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finally shifted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(d) No decision has been taken as yet.